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STATEMENT

OF THE

Board of Royal Institution

GOVERNORS OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF

McGILL COLLEGE;

WITH OTHER PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY.

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STATEMENT

OF THE

Board of Royal Institution,

GOVERNORS OF

McGILL COLLEGE,

BEING EXTRACTS FROM A MEMORIAL PREPARED FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATURE OF CANADA, 1860.

The University has, within a few years past, been raised by great exertion, from an absolutely prostrate condition, to one in which it has become the most extensive in Canada, in the sphere of its educational operations. It is now instrumental in educating 833 persons; of whom 205 are Students in Law, Medicine, and Arts; 76 Teachers in training, and 252 pupils in the High School Department of the University, the remainder being pupils in the Model Schools. Its success and prosperity in the educational departments are of the most satisfactory character: but this position has not been attained without difficulty, and the necessary assumption by the Governors of grave responsibility.

The foundation of the University is due to the late James McGill, who bequeathed a generous legacy for that purpose; and an Endowment amounting to £15,000 was added in 1856 by the liberality of a number of the Citizens of Montreal. But the income derived from these two sources has proved insufficient to meet the wants of the Institution; and the Legislative aids upon which the Governors greatly depended, always inadequate, have been materially diminished by the introduction of the system of distributing the public moneys through the Superintendent of Education. With reference to this distribution it may be observed that only $19,092 of the annual appropriation of $68,000 for the support of superior education, are given to the Universities of Lower Canada and to the Colleges and

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High Schools which are nurseries of pupils for them. The remainder of the sum, under the erroneous construction put upon the Act of 1856, is distributed among schools, the greater number of which are mere elementary schools, not superior, if they are equal to those maintained out of the Common School Fund.

Thus, notwithstanding the partial assistance received, and the exercise of the most rigid economy, the income of the University still falls short by more than $3000 of the amount necessary to defray its current expenditure. It is also burdened with a debt of nearly £6000. Its professors, teachers and students are hindered in their work by the want of books, apparatus and other appliances, the deficiency of which the professors are often obliged to supply at their own cost. The want of suitable accommodation is also severely felt. The Faculty of Arts has rapidly outgrown its apartments in Burnside Hall, which moreover are now required for the extension of the High School Department. The rooms of the Faculty of Medicine, always inconvenient, are overcrowded. The Faculty of Law has no class-rooms for its special use. Further, the unfinished condition of the original College buildings is a reproach to the University and indeed to the whole community. So great has been the pecuniary pressure, that the Governors were at one time obliged to incur a personal liability of $4000 to meet existing deficiencies, and to prevent diminution of the present means of instruction.

The embarrassment under which the Institution thus labors, arises from an unexpected degree of success, and especially from the rapid increase of a demand for that higher education which it is the province of this University to supply, and for which the Board of Governors regard it as a duty to provide, even at some risk of overtaxing its resources. Its rapid growth under the pressure of this demand has been so far beyond what could have been reasonably expected, that it has become exceedingly difficult to make its income keep pace with its extending usefulness: and unless efficient aid be obtained, there are no means by which it can be sustained on its present footing. A reduction must be made by which advantages that have cost so much in time and labor will inevitably be sacrificed.

For relief under these circumstances your Memorialists can only look to the Government and the Provincial Parliament; and they earnestly solicit attention to their absolute need of a Grant for this year, adequate to the payment of the debt, and

the completion of the College buildings; and of a sufficient sum yearly afterwards, to enable them to meet the neccessary expenditure, in carrying on with efficiency the business of the University; and, they feel it their duty to urge further that provision ought also to be made for the future enlargement of its operations to meet the wants of an increasing population, by the establishment of a permanent fund for its support; and they respectfully suggest that this object seems likely to be most easily and effectually attained, by an appropriation of a sufficient portion of the public lands of the Province.

Your Memorialists, feel that their application for assistance, in both these forms, ought to be favorably received, upon very broad grounds of public interest, and for the following special reasons:

First:—The late Mr. McGill undoubtedly made his bequest under the expectation and implied promise that a further and sufficient endowment would be made by the Provincial Government. This is apparent, from the circumstances under which the bequest was made. The Governor General in 1801 laid before the Provincial Parliament a message in the following terms:

"That His Majesty had been graciously pleased to give directions for the establishment of a competent number of Free Schools, for the instruction of children in the first rudiments of useful learning, and in the English tongue, and for foundations of a more enlarged and comprehensive nature, and that His Majesty had been further pleased to signify His Royal intention that a suitable proportion of the lands of the Crown should be set apart, and the revenues thereof appropriated to such purposes." As a preliminary step, the Act incorporating the Royal Institution for the advancement of learning was passed, containing this message in its preamble, and thereafter, it was intended that the "liberal grant of Crown Lands," referred to in the Message, should be transferred to its control, in trust for Free Schools and "Foundations of a more enlarged and comprehensive nature,"—but no grant was ever made.

The late Mr. McGill was not only an active Member of the Legislature at this time, but an Excutive Councillor, and therefore, must be presumed to have been thoroughly conversant with the intentions of the Imperial and Provincial Governments. By his last will he bequeathed a sum of money and his Estate of Burnside

to the Royal Institution for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a University; but his endowment, liberal as it was, was yet quite inadequate for the object contemplated, and it is reasonable to infer that he looked beyond it to the Royal Institution, to whom he believed that a liberal Grant of Crown Lands was to have been entrusted for a kindred purpose.

His Endowment was long anterior to the establishment of any Protestant College in the Province, and still is the only one made in it for that purpose. Since that time hundreds of thousands of pounds have been bestowed by annual grants on Roman Catholic Educational Institutions in Lower Canada; while, in Upper Canada, several Universities have been founded, all of them participating more or less in the grants of public moneys. One of them, the University of Toronto, enjoys an endowment of 226,201 acres of land conferred by Royal Grant in 1828, from which a sum exceeding £293,883 has been already derived, and in addition to this, it received during many years for the College connected with it, a grant of £1,111 annually. Upper Canada College, established in 1832, was endowed by various grants between that year and the year 1835, with 63,805 acres of land, which has yielded £55,434, and has also received an annual grant of £1000, which still continues. Yet no permanent provision whatever has ever been made for McGill College, and all the moneys received by it from public sources (of which the first was in 1854) do not together amount to one-fourth of the annual revenues of the University of Toronto, or to one-tenth of the value of Mr. McGill's bequest.

The largeness of that bequest and the munificence with which the fund has since been increased in the sum of £15,000 by subscription in the City of Montreal, coupled with the character of the University, justify your Memorialists in the hope that a corresponding spirit will be manifested by the Legislature, and that after so much has been done by private beneficence, the work may be completed by granting the relief now sought, and providing for the future a permanent public Endowment.

Secondly:—Not only was the late Mr. McGill warranted in believing that his exertions to establish a University would be supported by the Grant from the Crown Lands, but the Members of the Royal Institution, subsequently, were led to expect that they would have been saved the heavy expense of erecting the College buildings, and that the endowment would have been rendered available for its

future support. In the early part of 1819, the Lord Bathurst, then Colonial Secretary, instructed the Governor General, the Duke of Richmond, to adopt, with as little delay as possible, the necessary measures for erecting upon Mr. McGill's property an adequate building for the instruction of youth, and His Grace was authorized to defray the expense thereof from the funds which might be in the hands of the Receiver of the Jesuits' Estates.

But for reasons unknown to the Governors, these liberal intentions on the part of His Majesty were not carried into effect.

Thirdly :—The University of McGill College is the only one in Lower Canada which is non-sectarian. As such it possesses the confidence of the Protestant community of every religious denomination. This is shown by the list of subscriptions to the endowment fund, in which are to be found the names of Members of the English and Scotch Churches and of the Free Church, Methodists, Congregationalists, American Presbyterians and Unitarians ; Members of the Jewish faith have also contributed.

Fourth :—The University is not a mere private Institution founded by individual benevolence, but is public and Provincial in its character. It is prepared to confer degrees not only upon the Students of its own Colleges, but, under just and saluvary rules, upon those of any others which may be established in the Province,—thus rendering it unnecessary, as without doubt it is inexpedient, to multiply the number of Educational Institutions possessing that power.

The Governing body is appointed by the Crown and is removable at pleasure. The Governor General is its Visitor.

A large number of scholarships in the Faculty of Arts are at the disposal of His Excellency, and he has the presentation to 30 scholarships in the High School Department.

Fifth :—This Provincial character of the University, and the prosperity and influence which it has attained, mark it out as the great centre and support of the higher Protestant Education in Lower Canada. As such, the establishment and management of the Normal School has been confided to it with the approbation of the whole community ; and the confidence has thus far been justified by a complete success. A further indication of the same nature is afforded by the affiliation with it of the St. Francis College (a flourishing Institution in one of the Eastern Townships) under the liberal terms provided by the Statutes of the University.

The affiliation of other College and Theological Schools may be expected, and thus the aids to higher education, which this country so much needs, will always be available to all who may require them, and that in the amplest form; for it is to be observed that this University offers to its students not only an ordinary liberal education, but the means also of high scientific culture and of thorough instruction in the professions of Law, Medicine and Engineering, and that its present position in this respect will enable it, with additional pecuniary resources, to extend itself still further in the direction of professional education.

The importance and claims for support of such a Central Institution are too obvious to require argument, and these, great as they now are, will be augmented by the increase of population, wealth and intelligence, bringing with them an appreciation of the value of learning and a demand for the means of its general cultivation. The University of McGill College ought not then to be confounded with the ordinary Schools and other Educational Establishments, sectarian or non-sectarian, which abound in Lower Canada. It stands alone in its character and objects, and requires from the Government a direct and special support adequate to its importance and its wants. To place it, in the distribution of Legislative aid, upon the same footing with those minor establishments which share in the fund placed in the hands of the Superintendent of Education, is an error and an injustice, not only to the University itself but to the whole Protestant community of Lower Canada.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF McGILL COLLEGE, FROM 1854 TO 1860.

Matriculated	1854–5	1855–6	1856–7	1857–8	1858–9	1859–60
in Arts,.....		17	30	35	40	55
in Medicine,.....		57	96	90	97	108
in Law,.....		15	16	30	30	37
Occasional in Arts,.....		21	12	12	7	5
.....						
Total Students,.....	97	110	154	167	174	205
Teachers in Training in Normal School,....			52	70	83	76
Pupils in High School,.....	185	215	225	242	250	252
" in Model Schools,....			210	230	300	300
.....						
Total,.....	282	325	641	709	807	833
Grants to the University,...	$7000	$4000	$2800	$2730	$2661.75	
" to the High School for Educating 30 free Scholars,.....	$1128	$1128	$1128	$1128	$1128	

9 Feb. 1940